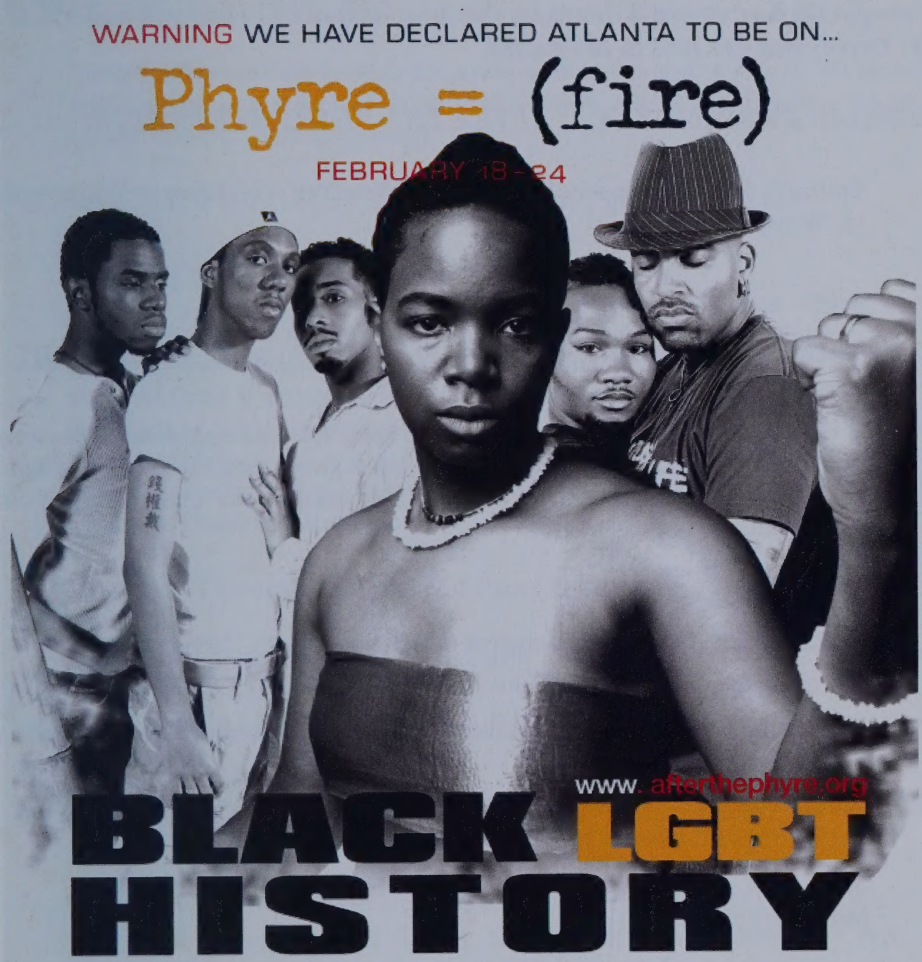


Phyre = (fire)

Program Booklet

A Guide to the Events and Activities Associated with PHYRE Week

Visit us on the web: www.afterthephyre.org or call us: 678.280.7750

Events Details

All events will take place at: 87 Peachtree Street (Kessler Lofts), Atlanta, Georgia (in downtown Atlanta on the intersection of Peachtree and MLK Jr. Drive) and are free to the public.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH: AFTER THE PHYRE SYMPOSIUM

6pm – 6:45pm - Opening Remarks and Reading with Marvin White and G. Winston James

6:45 – 8pm - Panel Discussion

Theme: "After the Phyre: the Past, Present, and Future of Black LGBT Communities".

Discussion will center on how we as black queer folk conceptualize our personal and collective histories, the organizations, institutions, movements, figures and moments that have shaped our present, and the implications for the future of our communities.

Panelist:

- Nikki Young- Ph.D. student in Religion, Emory University
- Craig Washington- Writer, Activist, Community Leader
- Jafari Sinclair Allen- Assistant Professor of Anthropology University of Texas Austin
- Steven G. Fullwood- Journalist, Archivist, Founder of the Black Gay and Lesbian Archives

8pm- 9pm - Opening of the Tony Daniel's Room (Honoring a local human rights activist)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19TH: National Blogging Online

Log on the net for this all day event to access blogs to engage in conversation regarding our event and the Question Homophobia Campaign.

Bloggers To Log Onto:

Keith Boykin- www.keithboykin.com
Jasmine Cannick- www.jasminecannick.com
Adolph St. Arromand- www.youdomefirst.blogspot.com
Jeleel Humphrey- www.blog.myspace.com/jaleel17

For more info on PHYRE or the Question Homophobia Campaign plea

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20TH: Honoring Our Sistahs Night
Hosted by Zami, Inc.- 6pm – 9pm

Transforming your life through the power of thoughts and emotions. We direct you to a holistic approach of living more authentically, and manifesting the life of your dreams…beginning today.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST: Campaign Panel Discussion

Theme: Deeper Love Reloaded

The history of HIV/AIDS prevention in Atlanta cannot be told without discussing the impact of the Deeper Love Project. From it's beginning as the vision of Craig Washington, to its current state, the program has served thousands of black gay men in Atlanta. Join us as we celebrate the Deeper Love Project and launch our new website. We will also have a panel discussion with brothas from Deeper Love that participated in the "Question Homophobia, Change is Possible" campaign.

7pm-8pm- Opening Remarks and Panel Discussion

8pm- until- Deeper Love Launch/Party

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND: Candle Light Vigil

Theme: Don't Let the "Phyre" Out: A Candle Light Vigil to Honor Our Unsung Heroes- 7pm- 9pm (Facilitated By Minister Paris Eley)

Same gender loving people of color in America have deep roots. We have been present through slavery, the Harlem Renaissance, the Civil Rights Movement, and the hip-hop phenomenon. We've had triumphs and defeats and have even lost loved ones along the way. From the brutal bashing of HBCU college students, to the more recent attack on two Black men perpetuated by six others this past October in southwest Atlanta, all over America, and even in our own backyard, anti-gay violence and homophobia threaten us on a daily basis. Despite our presence, mainstream culture has not always allowed for our visibility. This vigil will honor those of us who've contributed to the world and attempted to leave it a better place. Through this vigil we pay tribute to the "everyday" heroes whose contribution was to simply live. We hope

that you benefit from this opportunity to honor others and ultimately realize the hero in yourself.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23RD: PHYRE & FILM (Film Festival)
- See Pages 4 - 6 for Descriptions of Films to be Shown

Films to be shown (7:00pm-9:00pm):

- Sarang Song (7:00pm)
- Paris Is Burning (7:30pm)
- Blind Faith (8:00pm)
- Looking for Langston (8:30pm)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH: PHYRE & FILM II (Film Festival)
(See Pages 4 - 6 for Descriptions of Films to be Shown)
Showing times are: 11am- 3pm

Films to be shown (11:00am-3:00pm):

- Rape For Who I Am (11:00am)
- Watermelon Woman (12:00pm)
- Brother to Brother (11:30am)
- Tongues Untied (12:30pm)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24TH: ARTS ON PHYRE / LISTENING PARTY

Sit back and enjoy a night of Music, Dance and Spoken Word contributions by some of Atlanta's most talented Black LGBT Artists. Bring your talents for the Open Mic from 7:00pm to 8:00pm , which will be followed by a showcase of artistic performances.

Performances by:

Adodi Muse	Spoken Word
Anye "Elite" Ellis	Song
Antron Brown	Spoken Word
Symphony	Song/Spoken Word
Daniel Harris	Spoken Word
Beverly Williams-Wright	Song
Moe Anthony	Spoken Word
Craig Washington	Creative Monologue
And more!	

****SPECIAL ALL WEEK LONG SILENT ART AUCTION****

For more info on PHYRE or the Question Homophobia Campaign plea

Theme: Glow – A Silent Auction to Benefit the Annualizing of Black Gay History Week (During all events)

For decades Atlanta has been a cultural epicenter for the African American community due, in large part, to contributions of LGBT people. As we take this week to reflect on our rich history let's remember to look to our future. The cultural landscape is as bright as ever and this up and coming generation of young LGBT innovators are ready to set the art scene a blaze. We welcome you to help make history by supporting our creative brothers and sisters. The art pieces will be up for display and open for bidding throughout "PHYRE" week during all events held at EM Design Studios. With creative energy, passion and flow, the Fire is lit and continues to Glow.

Artists:

- Thishin Jackson
- Ijumo Hayward
- Jesse Oliver
- Kymyonna Epps
- Guy Pace
- Antron Brown

Film Listings:

Sarong Song (short) (Written and Directed by Tamika Miller)
SARANG SONG is a love story of two women set amidst the politically and socially turbulent times of the early 1970s. Their love is tested when one is thrust into the student protest movement and is forced to make a choice - will she choose her love, or will she choose the movement?

Paris is Burning (Directed by Jennie Livingston)
An unblinking behind the scenes story of fashion obsessed New Yorkers who created "voguing" and drag balls, and turned these raucous celebrations into a powerful expression of personal pride. The world within a world is instantly familiar, filled with ambitions, desires and yearnings that reflect America itself. PARIS IS BURNING is an intimate portrait of one urban community, a world in which the allure of high fashion, status and wealth becomes an affirmation of love, acceptance and joy.

Blind Faith (Directed by Ernest R. Dickerson, Written by Frank Military)
What would you be willing to sacrifice to keep your family secrets? How can you defend someone who won't defend himself? In 1957, black lawyer John Williams has to defend his nephew Charlie, who is accused of strangling a white boy to death. John doesn't believe Charlie did it, and although Charlie confesses, John wants to find out the real truth.

Looking for Langston (Directed by Isaac Julien)
A black and white, fantasy-like recreation of high-society gay men during the Harlem Renaissance, with archival footage and photographs intercut with a story. A wake is going on, with mourners gathered around a coffin. Downstairs is an elegant bar where tuxedoed men dance and talk. One of them has a dream in which he comes upon Beauty, who seems to reject him, although when he awakes, Beauty is sleeping beside him. His story and his visits to the jazz and dance club are framed by voices reading from the poetry and essays of Hughes and others. The text is rarely explicit, but the freedom of gay Black men in the 1920s in Harlem is suggested and celebrated visually.

Rape For Who I Am (short) (Directed by Lovinsa Kavuma)
It is said every 29 seconds in South Africa a woman is raped. This short documentary film about an African Lesbian who gets raped and then attempts to find justice through the seemingly corrupt legal system of South African is nothing short of astonishing. The film explores how black Lesbians in South Africa are abused and raped because of their sexual orientation. The Director…delves into an unknown world that sucks you right in and keeps you wanting more.

Watermelon Woman (Written and Directed by Cheryl Dunye)
Cheryl is young, Black, and lesbian, working in Philadelphia with her best friend Tamara and consumed by a film project: to make a video about her search for a Black actress from Philly who appeared in films in the 30s and wa known as the Watermelon Woman. Following various leads, Cheryl discovers the Watermelon Woman's stage name and real name and surmises that the actress had a long affair with Martha Page, a White woman and one of Hollywood's few female directors. As she's discovering these things, Cheryl becomes involved with Diana, who's also White. The affair strains Cheryl's friendship with Tamara. More discoveries bring Cheryl (and us, her audience) to new realizations.

For more info on PHYRE or the Question Homophobia Campaign ple

Brother to Brother (Written and Directed by Rodney Evans)
A drama that looks back on the Harlem Renaissance from the perspective of an elderly, black writer who meets a gay teenager in a New York homeless shelter.

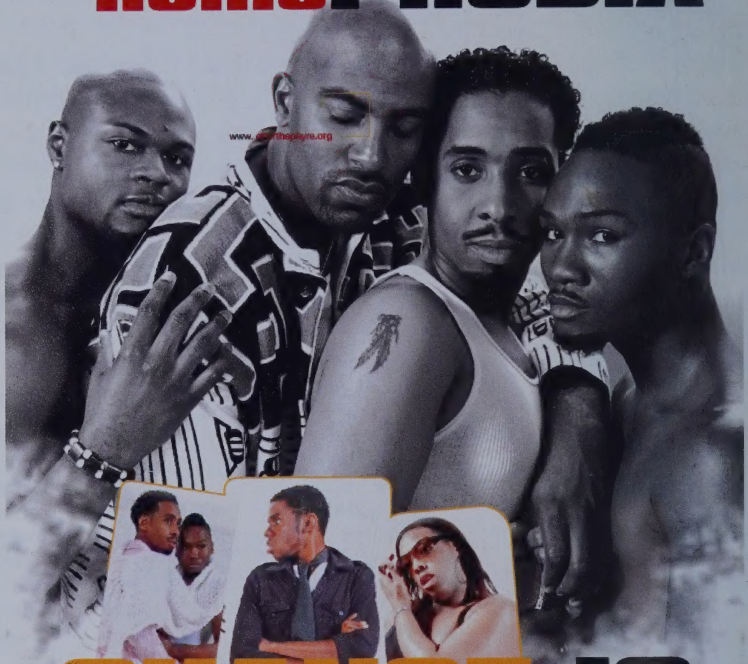
Tongues Untied (Directed by Marlon Riggs)
Marlon Riggs, with assistance from other gay Black men, especially poet Essex Hemphill, celebrates Black men loving Black men as a revolutionary act. The film intercuts footage of Hemphill reciting his poetry, Riggs telling the story of his growing up, scenes of men in social intercourse and dance, and various comic riffs, including a visit to the "Institute of Snap!thology," where men take lessons in how to snap their fingers: the sling snap, the point snap, the diva snap. The film closes with obituaries for victims of AIDS and archival footage of the civil rights movement placed next to footage of Black men marching in a gay pride parade.

Three Last Month

By Marvin White

they got two more last week
this time with fists
this time with hands
this time with knives
this time with guns
star 69
three way
redial
and call every sissy we know
tell them
they are coming into our homes
with invitations
like vampires
and they are out for blood
we are being lured like lemmings
into hotels and parks and pants
for the ultimate highs
and prizes
some woman's man
let your good good girlfriends know
they are killing us
look out for your stranger brother
go tell him it aint safe out here
there are murderers walking among us
it aint safe out here
they got three last month
now there are many thousand gone
some with violence
some with aids
some with drugs
some with church
some with church
we are being killed
so I write this poem
for all the children
who were murdered last year
who died last year
alone with themselves
or a stranger looking for a love
if only for a minute
made to feel
more like a man
more like a woman
made to feel special for a minute
please god give me this poem
use me for Carmen
for titus
for Jackie
for Michael
for Tatiana
use me to write this poem
for Stanley parker
for llari
for la quan
this poem is for the queens too young
to get inside the club
for the bookstore and park queens
for the street queens
for the fourteenth and broadway trade
for the hustlers and prostitutes
for the ones hiding behind bibles
for the ones who think aids
and bullets and drugs
cant find them in their closets
this poem is for mothers
who loved children
for what they were
many thousand gone
someone let a stranger into our house
he has eaten
and now he is picking the bones
he is cleaning his teeth
with our good silverware
and he smiles full
satisfied
please use me to write a poem
for people who wont get a chance
to know who we were
because they are killing us
this time with fists
this time with hands
this time with knives
this time with guns

QUESTION homoPHOBIA



CHANGE IS POSSIBLE

PHYRE's vision is to expressly add that our history is rich because of contributions from African-American persons who among them are lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered (LGBT). In the words of Alice Walker, *"We have to talk about liberating minds as well as liberating society."* The PHYRE project aims to assure that the truths about LGBT African-American's is known, understood, and celebrated. As the truths become more and more evident, America and all her children will be free.

Phyre = (fire)

Special thanks to all guests, community members, and allies who came out to support PHYRE. We hope you enjoyed the week's activities.

PHYRE is honoring and remembering African American Women and Men, throughout American history, who are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, or Transgender who too have shaped the American mosaic through their contributions in politics, social justice, film, art, music, dance, religion, and literature.

For more info on PHYRE or the Question Homophobia Campaign pleas